

ASIAN TOUR 1967



TAIWAN

ARRIVAL STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER,  
MR. HAROLD HOLT AT TAIPEI

4TH APRIL, 1967

It gives me great pleasure to make my first visit to the Republic of China, and to be the first Prime Minister of Australia to have made such a visit in that capacity.

I greatly look forward to meeting the distinguished President of the Republic, and to having the opportunity of discussing with him the many matters in which we have a common interest. These include importantly the menace of communist expansion in the Asian and Pacific region, a threat of which the Republic of China has a long and intimate knowledge.

Relations between the Republic of China and Australia have long been warm and friendly. Australia has consistently supported the position of the Republic of China in the United Nations and its agencies. The Chinese Embassy is one of the oldest diplomatic missions in Canberra, and Australia has recently re-established its own embassy with the Republic of China. Trade between our two countries has increased substantially over recent years.

In addition to establishing personal contact with the President, his Ministers and other leading personalities, I hope during my visit to see something of Taiwan's impressive economic progress, about which we have had enthusiastic reports. I am particularly looking forward to visiting some of your modern industrial plants and port installations.

We in Australia share goals of peace, stability and prosperity so widely held in Asia. We believe the Republic of China, with its growing economic strength and the resourcefulness of its people, can play a highly significant part in the combined efforts of all like-minded countries to satisfy these longings. We recognise that the Republic of China is already making a considerable contribution in the form of its economic and technical aid to other countries. We likewise have been increasing the volume and variety of our economic aid.

We are glad, also, to find ourselves fellow-members with China of two new Asian organisations, the Asian and Pacific Council and the Asian Development Bank. We confidently anticipate further profitable co-operation between our two countries in both of them.

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